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The FEED SITUATION

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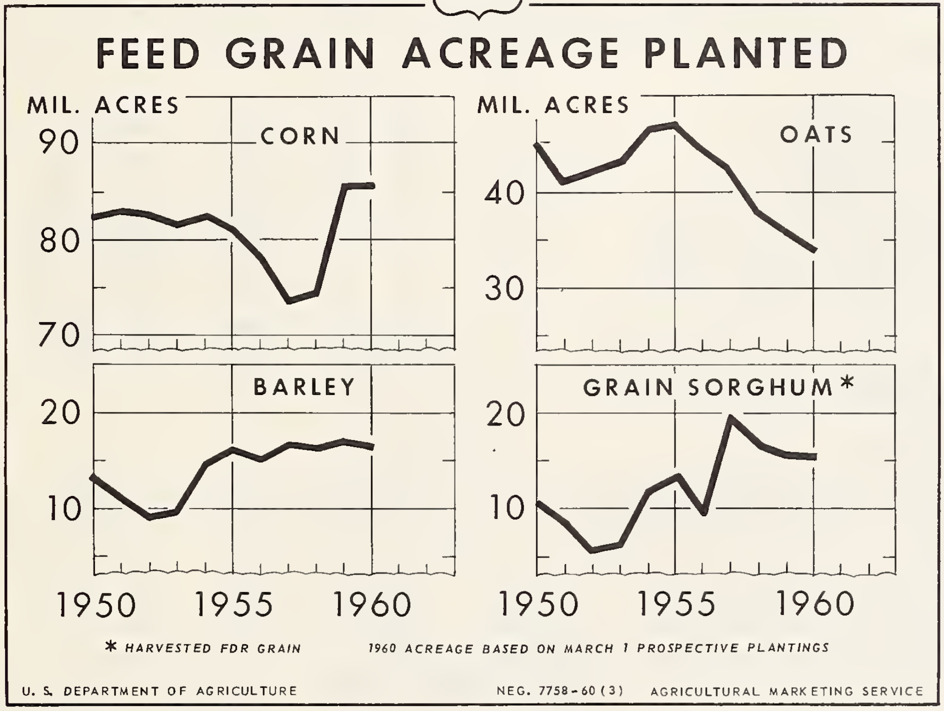

Farmers will plant about 2 million acres less feed grains this year than in 1959 if they carry out their March 1 plans. Most of this prospective reduction is in oats, as farmers plan to continue the down trend that started in 1955. Corn acreage is expected to be maintained near the 1959 level of a little under 86 million acres, following the sharp increase from 1958 to 1959. The prospective grain sorghum acreage is close to the 1959 level, but a moderate reduction is planned for barley.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Table 1.- Statistical Summary

PRICES

Item	Unit	1958		1959		1960		
		Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
		Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Grains and Hay								
Corn, No. 3 Yellow, Chicago	Bushel	1.13	1.16	1.18	1.21	1.14	1.13	1/1.14
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	.958	1.00	1.04	1.06	.979	.995	.999
Oats, No. 1 White, Chicago	Bushel	.736	.752	.688	.696	.799	.767	1/.779
No. 2 White, Minneapolis	Bushel	.644	.659	.631	.637	.718	.690	1/.699
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	.611	.616	.599	.590	.685	.678	.676
Barley, No. 3, Minneapolis	Bushel	1.18	1.19	1.18	1.14	1.11	1.08	1/1.06
Price received by farmers, U. S.	Bushel	.867	.851	.922	.905	.848	.860	.839
Grain sorghums, price received by farmers, U.S.	100 pounds	1.62	1.69	1.75	1.76	1.53	1.53	1.53
Wheat, No. 2 Hard Winter, Kansas City	Bushel	2.20	2.27	2.03	2.07	2.07	2.10	1/2.12
Hay, No. 1 Alfalfa, baled, Kansas City	Ton	27.50	28.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00
Price received by farmers, baled, U. S.	Ton	18.70	18.50	19.30	18.80	22.20	22.50	22.90
Byproduct Feeds (Bulk)								
Standard bran, Minneapolis	Ton	30.75	37.00	37.25	39.90	36.60	35.25	38.40
Buffalo	Ton	38.60	43.40	42.75	44.60	41.50	39.50	43.35
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	2.71	2.86	3.10	3.08	2.90	2.88	2.93
Standard middlings, Minneapolis	Ton	30.00	36.50	37.40	40.30	35.25	33.25	38.30
Buffalo	Ton	38.50	42.90	43.40	45.20	42.10	39.70	44.40
Price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	2.76	2.90	3.15	3.13	2.96	2.94	2.98
Soybean meal, 44 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	53.90	61.25	59.90	60.10	64.50	60.65	59.35
Price paid by farmers, U. S. 44% protein	100 pounds	3.72	3.95	4.39	4.25	4.24	4.19	4.14
Cottonseed meal, 41 percent protein, Memphis	Ton	56.50	59.60	62.90	60.60	57.90	53.50	56.00
Price paid by farmers, U. S. 41% protein	100 pounds	3.78	3.90	4.36	4.29	4.14	4.09	4.08
Linseed meal, 36 percent protein, Minneapolis	Ton	47.75	50.90	74.25	73.20	68.75	64.00	55.10
Peanut meal, 45 percent protein, S. E. milling points	Ton	52.10	58.90	59.90	59.40	62.10	58.75	53.70
Gluten feed, 21 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	36.00	40.00	46.00	43.20	43.00	41.00	37.80
Hominy feed, Chicago	Ton	36.25	38.50	42.10	41.00	41.00	38.35	39.50
Brewers' dried grains, 24 percent protein, Milwaukee	Ton	41.90	38.75	46.90	44.70	44.85	40.75	36.50
Distillers' dried grains, 28 percent protein, Cincinnati	Ton	50.00	50.00	51.25	51.00	56.50	57.00	56.90
Tankage digester, 60 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	85.40	103.20	111.25	104.00	73.10	70.00	77.95
Meat meal, 50 percent protein, Chicago	Ton	81.00	97.90	105.60	100.50	72.80	69.35	76.65
Fish meal, 60% protein, Buffalo, f.o.b. seaboard	Ton	126.60	124.75	162.75	161.20	118.75	110.00	108.80
Alfalfa meal, 17 percent dehydrated, Kansas City	Ton	42.10	40.60	61.00	61.00	55.00	55.00	53.20
Mixed dairy feed, 16 percent protein, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	3.56	3.60	3.75	3.74	3.67	3.65	3.65
Laying mash, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	4.29	4.38	4.52	4.49	4.36	4.36	4.34
Scratch feed, price paid by farmers, U. S.	100 pounds	3.89	3.93	3.89	3.89	3.85	3.85	3.85
Molasses, blackstrap, New York	Gallon	.180	.180	.160	.160	.154	.135	.135
INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES								
		Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Feed grains, price received by farmers, U. S.	1947-49=100	60	62	64	65	61	62	62
Eleven principal high-protein feeds, wholesale prices at terminal markets	1947-49=100	77	84	91	88	86	83	81
Five oilseed meals	1947-49=100	77	84	90	88	90	86	84
Tankage, meat scraps, and fish meal	1947-49=100	81	94	103	100	72	68	71
Gluten feed, brewers' dried grains, and distillers' dried grains	1947-49=100	74	78	86	83	80	79	73
Feed, price paid by farmers, U. S.	1947-49=100	83	85	87	87	85	85	85
LIVESTOCK-FEED PRICE RATIOS 2/								
(March average)								
Hog-corn, Chicago 3/ 1949-58=13.1	Bushel	17.8	18.2	13.2	13.4	10.9	12.0	1/13.5
Hog-corn, U. S. farm price 1949-58=14.1	Bushel	20.4	20.3	14.8	14.5	12.4	13.1	15.1
Beef steer-corn, Chicago 4/ 1949-58=17.6	Bushel	23.6	24.3	23.3	23.4	22.8	23.4	1/23.9
Milk-feed, U. S. 1949-58=1.27	Pound	1.48	1.42	1.42	1.37	1.49	1.45	1.41
Butterfat-feed, U. S. 1949-58=22.2	Pound	24.8	24.4	24.2	24.4	24.8	24.7	24.5
Egg-feed, U. S. 1949-58=10.5	Pound	11.3	12.2	10.5	10.0	8.9	8.7	9.7
Farm chicken-feed, U. S. 1949-58= 6.2	Pound	4.7	5.0	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.7
Commercial broiler-feed, U. S. 1949-58= 5.2	Pound	4.2	4.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.8	3.9
Turkey-feed, U. S. 1949-58= 8.8	Pound	7.4	7.9	7.3	6.9	8.5	7.7	7.9

1/ Average for four weeks ending March 25, 1960. Carlot sales of corn and oats not reported at Chicago for last half of March. Chicago prices for those 2 weeks are based on daily spot quotations. 2/ Units of corn or other concentrate ration equal in value to 100 pounds of hog or beef-steer, one pound of chicken, butterfat, or milk, or one dozen eggs. 3/ Based on packer and shipper purchases of hogs and No. 3 Yellow corn. 4/ Based on price of beef-steers sold out of first hands for slaughter, and No. 3 Yellow corn.

Prices compiled from Wall Street Journal, Chicago edition, Minneapolis Daily Market Record, Kansas City Grain Market Review, and reports of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

THE FEED SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 1, 1960

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SUMMARY

Total supplies of feed grains and other feed concentrates in 1960-61 may rise a little above the 1959-60 level to a new record high, if early spring prospects materialize. Farmers are planning a slightly smaller acreage of feed grains and with a normal growing season, production would be a little under last year's record crop of 166 million tons. But, the carryover of feed grains into 1960-61 is expected to be around 10 million tons above the 68 million ton carryover last year. Based on these early prospects, the total feed concentrate supply would increase to around 270 million tons, 3 percent over the 263 million tons in 1959-60.

If farmers carry out their March 1 planting intentions, the 1960 corn acreage will remain near the 1959 level of a little under 86 million acres, after the sharp rise from 1958 to 1959. Farmers plan to plant nearly 20 million acres to sorghums for all purposes, about equal to last year's acreage. The reduction of 5 percent in prospect for oats would bring the oat acreage to the lowest level in over 50 years. A 4 percent reduction is planned for barley. Heavy snows over large areas of the mid-West in March greatly delayed the preparation of ground and seeding of oats and barley. This means that these crops will have a later start than usual. It also may be necessary to divert some of the acreage planned for these crops to other crops such as corn, sorghums and soybeans, which are planted later in the season.

Feed grain prices have made less than their normal seasonal rise since last fall and have averaged a little lower this winter than last. In March, the index of prices received by farmers was about the same as in November and 4 percent below a year earlier. Prices of high-protein feeds also have averaged lower in recent months than a year ago, and a number of these feeds have declined since January. The index of wholesale prices of high-protein feeds in March averaged about 8 percent lower this year than last. Feed prices probably will continue generally below a year earlier, at least through the first half of 1960.

Corn prices, and to some extent prices of other feeds, also are being influenced by the large volume of high moisture corn in the Corn Belt. Many farmers in the Corn Belt are finding it necessary to feed their high moisture corn or otherwise dispose of it to avoid spoilage later this spring and summer. This apparently is reducing the demand for other feeds and exerting a bearish effect on feed prices generally. High moisture corn has been selling, at a greater than usual discount, under corn of good quality. Sorghum grain prices continue low in relation to other feed grains and in mid-March prices received by farmers averaged 13 percent lower than a year earlier. Oat prices, reflecting short supplies, continue relatively high with prices received in mid-March averaging 15 percent higher in March than a year ago.

The minimum national average support for 1960 corn was announced in February at $1.06 per bushel, 6 cents below the 1959 support. The 1960 support, based on 65 percent of the February parity price, will not be lowered, but it may be raised on the basis of changes in the parity price or other conditions at the beginning of the 1960-61 marketing year. Price supports for the other feed grains were announced at the same levels as in 1959--oats, 50 cents per bushel; barley, 77 cents per bushel and sorghum grain, $1.52 per 100 pounds.

Farmers had placed 378 million bushels of 1959-crop corn under price support through February, substantially more than in this same period of the past 2 years. The quantity is not large, however, considering the size of the 1959 crop. The high-moisture content of 1959 corn has delayed the placing of corn under price support and also will limit the total quantity. The 4.3 million tons of oats, barley and sorghum grain placed under price support during the 1959-60 loan period was less than half of the 11.7 million tons placed under price support from the big 1958 crops.

PROSPECTS FOR 1960-61

Another Record Feed Concentrate Supply In Prospect for 1960-61

If the 1960 growing season is average or above, another record supply of feed grains and other concentrates would be expected in 1960-61.

Table 2 .- Planted acreages of feed grains, hay, and related crops, 1949-58 average, 1958, 1959 and prospective plantings for 1960

Crop	Average 1949-58	1958	1959	Prospective 1960 1/	1960 as a percentage of: Average	1960 as a percentage of: 1959
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pct.	Pct.
Corn	80,664	74,513	85,530	85,758	106.3	100.3
Oats	43,485	38,406	36,141	34,273	78.8	94.8
Barley	13,249	16,309	16,990	16,386	123.7	96.4
Sorghum grain 2/	10,718	16,658	15,575	3/15,500	144.6	99.5
Total, 4 feed grains	148,116	145,886	154,236	151,917	102.6	98.5
All sorghums	18,267	21,047	19,886	19,800	108.4	99.6
Wheat	67,885	56,269	58,043	4/57,206	84.3	98.6
Soybeans 5/	18,127	24,900	23,178	24,667	136.1	106.4
Flaxseed	4,852	3,943	3,482	3,469	71.5	99.6
All hay 2/	74,200	73,004	69,404	69,088	93.1	99.5

1/ Based on farmers' acreage intentions on March 1.

2/ Acreage harvested.

3/ Unofficial estimate based on relationship between total acreage and acreage harvested for grain in recent years.

4/ Winter wheat seeded (44,389,000) plus the prospective acreage (12,817,000 acres) for spring wheat.

5/ Grown alone.

Table 3 .- Feed concentrate supplies, total and per animal unit, United States, average 1954-58, annual 1951-60

Season beginning	Feed grains: Carryover 1/	Feed grains: Production 2/	Feed grains: Total domestic supply	Other feed concentrates 3/	Total supply feed concentrates	Grain-consuming animal units 4/	Supply per animal unit
	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil. tons	Mil.	Tons
Average 1954-58	44.4	137.1	181.5	27.7	209.2	164.2	1.27
1951	28.6	113.1	141.7	27.5	169.2	167.3	1.01
1952	20.1	119.7	139.8	27.9	167.7	158.8	1.06
1953	27.0	117.5	144.5	27.7	172.2	156.7	1.10
1954	31.7	123.9	155.6	26.2	181.8	161.5	1.13
1955	39.1	130.9	170.0	26.9	196.9	165.6	1.19
1956	43.3	130.2	173.5	27.0	200.5	161.8	1.24
1957	48.9	142.9	191.8	28.5	220.3	161.5	1.36
1958	59.1	157.6	216.7	29.8	246.5	170.5	1.45
1959 5/	67.7	165.6	233.3	30.0	263.3	170.5	1.54
1960 6/	78.0	2/162.0	240.0	30.0	270.0	168.0	1.61

1/ Stocks of corn and sorghum grain on October 1, oats and barley on July 1.

2/ Corn for all purposes, oats, barley and sorghum grain.

3/ Imported feed grains and wheat, rye and byproduct feeds fed to livestock.

4/ Grain-consuming animal units fed during October-September feeding season.

5/ Preliminary.

6/ Tentative estimates based on indications in March.

7/ Based on acreage intentions on March 1 and average yields for recent years adjusted for the upward trend in corn and sorghum grain yields.

Table 4.-- Feed grains: Planted acreage, yield and production, United States, average 1954-58, annual 1951-60

Year	Corn 1/			Oats			Barley		
	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production	Planted acreage	Yield per planted acre	Production
	Mil. acres	Bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. acres	Bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. acres	Bu.	Mil. bu.
Average 1954-58	78.0	43.5	3,393	44.0	30.9	1,359	15.7	26.4	414
1951	83.3	35.1	2,926	41.0	31.2	1,278	10.8	23.8	257
1952	82.2	40.0	3,292	42.3	28.8	1,217	9.2	24.8	228
1953	81.6	39.3	3,210	43.2	26.7	1,153	9.6	25.7	247
1954	82.2	37.2	3,058	46.9	30.1	1,410	14.7	25.7	379
1955	81.1	39.8	3,230	47.5	31.6	1,503	16.3	24.6	401
1956	78.2	44.2	3,455	44.7	26.0	1,163	14.8	25.4	377
1957	73.9	46.3	3,422	42.6	30.6	1,301	16.5	26.4	437
1958	74.5	51.0	3,801	38.4	36.9	1,416	16.3	29.1	475
1959 2/	85.5	51.0	4,361	36.1	29.7	1,074	17.0	24.7	420
1960 3/	85.8	49.6	4,250	34.3	31.7	1,086	16.4	25.5	418

Year	Sorghum grain			Total four feed grains			
				Acreage			
	Acreage harvested for grain	Yield per acre	Production	Planted 4/	Harvested	Yield per planted acre 5/	Production
	Mil. acres	Bu.	Mil. bu.	Mil. acres	Mil. acres	Tons	Mil. tons
Average 1954-58	14.0	26.6	372	151.8	140.4	.90	137.1
1951	8.5	19.1	163	143.6	133.9	.79	113.1
1952	5.3	17.0	91	139.1	131.5	.86	119.7
1953	6.3	18.4	116	140.7	133.0	.84	117.5
1954	11.7	20.1	235	155.5	145.8	.80	123.9
1955	12.9	18.9	243	157.8	146.2	.83	130.9
1956	9.3	22.1	206	147.1	131.6	.89	130.2
1957	19.5	28.9	564	152.6	141.8	.94	142.9
1958	16.7	36.6	610	145.9	136.7	1.08	157.6
1959 2/	15.6	37.2	579	154.2	143.8	1.07	165.6
1960 3/	6/15.5	34.8	540	151.9	---	1.07	162.0

1/ For all purposes.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Indicated 1960 acreage based on March 1 intentions of farmers. Production computed on the basis of the prospective plantings. assuming average yields of recent years adjusted for upward trend in corn and sorghum grain yields.

4/ Includes sorghum acreage harvested for grain.

5/ Computed from data on production and acreage planted. Changes in yield reflect changes in acreage of the four grains and distribution by States, as well as, changes in the yield of the individual grains.

6/ Unofficial estimate based on total acreage and acreage harvested for grain in recent years.

The planted acreage of feed grains, based on farmers March 1 planting intentions, will total about 152 million acres, including an allowance for sorghum for grain, about 2 million acres below the 1959 level. Assuming average yields for recent years, and allowing for the upward trend in corn and sorghum grain yields, feed grain production would total around 162 million tons, only 2 percent below the record output last year. The carryover of feed grains is now expected to be about 10 million tons above the record carryover of 68 million tons into 1959-60. Including an allowance of 30 million tons for byproduct feeds and other grains, the total feed concentrate supply would be around 270 million tons, about 7 million more than last year and the largest on record.

The 1960-61 corn supply would be expected to set a new record of over 6 billion bushels, with a normal growing season this year. The 86 million acres in prospect, with an average growing season, probably would produce around 4,250 million bushels, about 100 million less than the record crop last year (table 4). The large amount of high moisture corn in the Corn Belt is expected to result in relatively heavy disappearance this year. The carryover next October 1 is now expected to be smaller than appeared likely earlier in the marketing year; probably under 2 billion bushels -- around 400 million above 1959 carryover.

The 1960 oat crop, with an average growing season, probably will be somewhere near last year's production of a little under 1.1 billion bushels. But July 1 carryover of oats is expected to drop sharply from the 368 million bushels last year to around 200 million bushels in 1960. This would give a prospective supply of around 1.3 billion bushels, 10 percent smaller than in 1959-60 and the smallest in 20 years.

The barley supply probably will total around 600 million bushels, with average yields this year, 6 percent below the 1959-60 supply. Although 1955-59 average yields on the 4 percent smaller acreage in prospect would be expected to about maintain production at the 1959 level, carryover is expected to be reduced about 35 million bushels from the 195 million bushels carried over on July 1, 1959.

The sorghum grain supply for 1960-61 may again total around 1.1 billion bushels, based on early spring prospects. An average growing season probably would result in per acre yields averaging a little below those of the past 2 years, when conditions have been very favorable for the crop in the Southwest. Allowing for the upward trend in sorghum grain yields, with an average growing season, a crop of around 540 million bushels would be expected on the prospective 1960 acreage. The acreage harvested for grain is expected to be only slightly below the 15.6 million acres harvested last year. A record carryover of 575 million bushels is in prospect for next October 1.

Supplies of high-protein and other byproduct feeds for 1960-61 probably will at least equal the 1959-60 tonnage. Total supplies of soybeans for 1960-61 are expected to be about as large as the 600 million bushel level of the past two years. While the prospective acreage is up 6 percent from last year a smaller carryover is in prospect. The total acreage allotment which can be planted to upland cotton in 1960 now amounts to 17.5 million acres, slightly above the 1959 allotment of 17.3 million. Prospective flaxseed acreage is slightly below last year but with 1955-59 average yields the crop would be somewhat larger than the small 1959 crop. Production of tankage and meat meal probably will be near this year's high level since total livestock slaughter is expected to continue at about the present rate in 1960-61.

Slightly Smaller Feed Grain Acreage Planned for 1960

Farmers will reduce their 1960 acreage of feed grains slightly from the 1959 level, if they carry out their March 1 plans. Prospective acreages of corn and sorghums are about the same as was planted in 1959, but a 5 percent reduction is in prospect for oats and 4 percent reduction in barley. The combined acreage of the four feed grains would total 151.9 million acres (including an allowance for sorghums for grain only), 2.3 million less than in 1959. Heavy snows in the mid-West and continued cool, wet weather in large areas of the South through much of March have delayed seeding of oats and barley in many areas which could influence the yield and the time of maturity. It may also be necessary for some farmers to shift from these grains to later planted crops such as corn, sorghums and soybeans.

Farmers plan only a further slight increase in corn acreage in 1960, following the 11 million acre rise from 1958 to 1959. The prospective 85.8 million acres to be planted, however, would be 5.1 million acres more than the 1949-58 average. An increase of about 1.2 million acres is in prospect for the North Central States (table 15). But, this will be largely offset by reductions in the South Central and South Atlantic regions, if farmers carryover out their March 1 plans.

A total of 34.3 million acres will be seeded to oats this year, 1.9 million less than in 1958, based on March 1 planting intentions. The prospective reduction is about equally divided between the North Central and Southern regions. This is the fifth year of declining oat acreage. The prospective 1960 acreage is 13 million acres below the record of 47.5 million acres planted in 1955. The prospective acreage to be seeded to barley totals 16.4 million, 604,000 less than in 1959, but more than 3 million above the 10-year average. Nearly all of the prospective decrease from 1959 is in the important malting barley producing areas of the mid-West. North Dakota alone indicates a drop of 500,000 acres.

The acreage planted to sorghums for all purposes is expected to total 19.8 million acres, about equal to last year's plantings. Larger acreages are in prospect in the West North Central region and Western States, but smaller acreages are in prospect for the South and Southwest.

Slightly Smaller Hay Acreage Planned

Farmers will cut hay from a slightly smaller acreage in 1960 if they carry out their March 1 plans. The prospective acreage for harvest of

69.1 million is only slightly below the 69.4 million harvested in 1959, but is 7 percent below the 10-year average. With 1955-59 average yields, by States, the 1960 crop would total about 110 million tons, 2 percent less than that produced in 1959 but slightly above the 10 year average.

Stocks on January 1 of 79 million tons were a little above average, but nearly 11 million tons smaller than the record stocks a year earlier. The late winter storms and cold in the eastern half of the country have probably caused heavier than average feeding of hay. Carryover of hay on May 1 probably will be well below the 26 million tons carried over last year. With a normal growing season, the total hay supply probably will be smaller than in any of the past 3 years.

Price Supports for 1960 Feed Grains

The Department of Agriculture on February 19 announced the minimum national average support for 1960 corn at $1.06 per bushel, or 6 cents below the 1959 support level. The 1960 support price reflects 65 percent of the February 1960 parity price of $1.63 per bushel. Under the provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1958, the basis for determining the corn price support, beginning with the 1959 crop, is 90 percent of the average price for the preceding 3 years, but not less than 65 percent of parity. The support for the 1960 crop is based on 65 percent of parity since this is slightly above 90 percent of the 3-year average price. Loans and purchase agreements will be available for the 1960 crop from time of harvest through May 31, 1961 in most areas. Loans will mature July 31, 1961. As was the case in 1959, corn produced anywhere in the United States that meets quality and storage requirements will be eligible for price support.

National average price supports also were announced for oats, barley and sorghum grain at the same levels as were in effect for the 1959 crops. The 1960 national average support for No. 3 oats is 50 cents per bushel; barley, No. 2 or better,77 cents per bushel and sorghum grain, No. 2 or better, $1.52 per 100 pounds. Supports will be available from time of harvest through January 31, 1961 and the loans in most States will mature on March 31, 1961 for sorghum grain and on April 30, 1961 for oats and barley. Producers of each of the four feed grains will be subject to a $50,000 price support limitation on the 1960 crops,as required by the provisions of the 1960 Agricultural Appropriations Act.

Table 5.--Feed grains: National average level of price supports, 1951-60

Year	Corn			Oats	Barley	Sorghum grain
	Commercial area		Noncommercial area 1/			
	To compliers	To noncompliers				
	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per bu.	Dol. per cwt.
1951 2/	1.57			0.72	1.11	2.17
1952 2/	1.60			.78	1.22	2.38
1953 2/	1.60			.80	1.24	2.43
1954	1.62	3/	1.22	.75	1.15	2.28
1955	1.58	3/	1.18	.61	.94	1.78
1956	1.50	1.25	1.24	.65	1.02	1.97
1957	1.40	1.10	1.27	.61	.95	1.86
1958	1.36	1.06	1.02	.61	.93	1.83
1959 2/	1.12			.50	.77	1.52
1960 2/	1.06			.50	.77	1.52

1/ National average support level for the noncommercial area in 1954 was approximately 67.5 percent of parity; 1955, 65 percent; 1956, 71 percent; 1957, 70 percent and 1958, 58 percent of parity.

2/ Supports were available to all producers at the same national average rate. Acreage allotments were not in effect in 1951-53 and the acreage allotment program was discontinued beginning with the 1959 crop.

3/ Supports not available to noncomplying farmers prior to 1956.

CURRENT SITUATION

Wet Corn A Problem in the Western Corn Belt

Wet corn has been a problem this winter over large areas of the Corn Belt. The area centering in Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska has been the most adversely affected. Because of excessive rain last fall, much of the corn in the Western Corn Belt was high in moisture when harvested. Rain and snow accompanied by high humidity continued through the winter in much of this area and resulted in little drying of the corn in the crib. In some areas, corn is reported to have increased in moisture content.

This high moisture corn has been a factor in limiting the quantity of corn going under price support. It also is expected to result in somewhat heavier disappearance of corn during the first half of 1960 than was

Table 6.- Corn: Inspected receipts by grades at principal markets, December-February, average 1954-58, annual 1957-58-1959-60 1/

Grade	Average 1954-58		1957-58		1958-59		1959-60	
	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity	Percentage of total	Quantity	Percentage of total
	1,000 bu.	Pct.	1,000 bu.	Pct.	1,000 bu.	Pct.	1,000 bu.	Pct.
1	9,496	11.6	5,381	5.3	6,395	8.4	894	1.2
2	21,951	26.9	17,334	17.2	24,702	32.6	8,746	11.3
3	22,164	27.2	23,079	22.9	24,329	32.1	23,934	31.1
4	16,222	19.9	28,490	28.2	12,681	16.7	25,891	33.6
5	6,754	8.3	18,818	18.6	3,922	5.2	12,832	16.7
Sample	4,955	6.1	7,849	7.8	3,806	5.0	4,696	6.1
Total	81,542	100.0	100,951	100.0	75,835	100.0	76,993	100.0

1/ Chicago, Decatur, Kansas City, Omaha, Peoria, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Indianapolis and Toledo.

Compiled from reports of the Grain Division, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 7 .- Receipts of feed grains at primary markets, October-February, average 1954-58, annual 1958-59 - 1959-60

Month	Corn 1/			Oats 1/			Barley 2/		
	Average 1954-58	1958-59	1959-60	Average 1954-58	1958-59	1959-60	Average 1954-58	1958-59	1959-60
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
October	32,662	33,229	26,839	5,953	5,162	5,891	13,635	17,430	14,977
November	48,754	47,306	55,612	5,472	3,672	5,693	13,081	10,747	14,710
December	33,572	29,600	31,974	7,834	7,381	6,412	12,067	13,606	11,378
January	32,079	28,388	21,916	9,205	9,140	5,892	13,976	14,237	15,786
February	31,671	33,166	32,448	5,772	5,741	5,712	10,142	12,376	13,228

1/ Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Louis, Kansas City, Peoria, Omaha, Indianapolis, Sioux City, St. Joseph, Wichita and Toledo.

2/ Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago and Duluth.

expected earlier. Corn prices, and to some extent prices of other feed grains, also will be influenced by the extent to which this corn drys during the next few months and the time required to dispose of it.

This wet corn has been reflected in the quality of corn received at 9 principal mid-Western markets during the period December-February. Only 12.5 percent of the corn received at these markets graded No. 2 or better, compared with 41 percent a year earlier and 38 percent for the 1954-58 average (table 6). On the other hand, 56 percent of the corn graded No. 4 or below, much more than the 27 percent in 1958-59 and also much more than for the 1954-58 average. The principal factor influencing the grading was high moisture content--with 80 percent of the total receipts containing around 20 percent moisture. The quantity of corn grading No. 1 or 2 was less than in the wet corn year, 1957-58, but more of the corn graded No. 3 and 4 and less graded No. 5 or below. These receipts include some corn from commercial and CCC stocks, as well as, farm marketings which also influences the distribution of the grades.

Domestic Use of Oilseed Meal Below 1958-59 Level

Domestic consumption of five major oilseed meals totaled nearly 5.2 million tons during October-February, about 5 percent less than in the same period of 1958-59 Total production during the 5 months was a little above a year earlier, but more of the production has gone into increased exports and stocks. Exports in October-January totaled 481,000 tons, over twice the quantity exported during the same period of 1958-59. Stocks on March 1 of 302,800 tons were 104,100 above those of March 1, 1959.

Production of the five oilseed meals totaled 5,805,800 tons during the first 5 months of the current feeding year, 3 percent more than in the same period of 1958-59. Imports have been small this year, totaling only 16,600 tons during October-January, less than a fourth of total tonnage imported a year earlier.

Production of soybean meal during October-February amounted to 3,944,100 tons, 3 percent less than the 4,046,900 tons produced in the same period of 1958-59. Both exports and stocks have risen above the levels of the previous year. Exports during the October-January period totaled 319,000 tons, 50 percent above the amount exported in the first four months of 1958-59. Stocks increased from 59,000 tons on October 1 to 98,000 tons on March 1, when they were slightly above stocks on March 1, 1959. Domestic use of soybean meal for the five months is estimated at about 3,550,000 tons, down 6 percent from the 3,763,000 tons used a year earlier. Production of soybean meal for the entire feeding year is now expected to total 9.5 million tons, about the same as in 1958-59.

Production of cottonseed meal totaled 1,601,000 tons during October-February, up by 21 percent from the same period of 1958-59. Domestic use of cottonseed meal was up only about 6 percent, as much of the increase in production went into heavier exports. Domestic use of linseed meal was only about half as great as a year earlier, reflecting slightly smaller production and heavy exports. Exports of both these meals during October-January totaled 162,000 tons compared with only 17,000 a year earlier. March 1 stocks of each of these meals were up from both October 1 and the previous March 1.

Reduced Output of Hogs and Poultry In Prospect

The total number of livestock to be fed in terms of animal units is expected to be reduced from a year earlier this spring and summer as farmers are curtailing production of hogs and poultry. The total number of grain-consuming animal units to be fed during the entire 1959-60 (October-September) feeding year is now estimated at 170.5 million, practically the same as in 1958-59. In 1960-61 the prospective decline in the number of hogs and laying hens is expected to bring the total number of animal units down a little from the 1959-60 level (table 3).

Much of the decline in grain-consuming livestock for the coming year will be in hogs and poultry. A substantial reduction in the number of hogs to be fed during the remainder of 1960 is in prospect in view of the indicated 13 percent reduction in the 1960 spring pig crop in prospect for the 10 major Corn Belt States. The reduction indicated for these States in the March 1 report substantiates the 11 percent reduction indicated for the entire country in the December Pig Crop Report. This will mean fewer hogs on feed during the remainder of 1960 and in the early months of 1961.

Poultry production -- dominated by reductions in chickens raised and the number of layers -- also will be at a lower level throughout 1960 than in 1959. The total number of hens in the Nation's laying flock was 3 percent smaller than a year earlier on March 1 and will decline further from last year as 1960 progresses. Broiler production also has been lower than a year earlier during the first half of the 1959-60 feeding year and is expected to continue a little below last year's level at least into the summer. On the other hand, the number of turkeys raised is expected to be a little above the record of 82 million raised last year.

Reductions in hogs and poultry this year will be only partly offset by the increased number of cattle being fed for market. Fattening of cattle on grain and other concentrates in the 13 leading States has been at a record level so far during 1959-60. On January 1, 1960 the 7.2 million head on feed in the 26 leading States was 9 percent larger than a year earlier. Cattle feeding is expected to continue heavy during the remainder of the current feeding year. The number of diary cows on farms declined about 1 percent during 1959 but farmers continued to feed their cows at a record rate per head.

Feed Prices Generally Lower Than a Year Ago

Prices of most feeds have averaged a little lower so far during the 1959-60 feeding year than in the same period of 1958-59. Big feed grain supplies, lower average prices for livestock and poultry, and reduced demand for commercially prepared feeds, especially poultry and hog feeds, have been bearish factors in the market. Feed grain prices have made less than their normal seasonal rise since last fall. In mid-March the index of prices received by farmers for feed grains was 4 percent below a year earlier. The index of wholesale prices of high-protein feed averaged 8 percent lower in March this year than last. Feed prices probably will continue a little below a year earlier at least through the first half of 1960. Hay prices have been 10 to 15 percent higher so far this feeding year than last, reflecting the reduced 1959-60 supply.

The price of corn, and to some extent prices of other feeds, has been influenced by the large volume of high moisture corn in the Corn Belt. In the first half of March, No. 2 Yellow corn at Chicago averaged $1.16 per bushel, 4 cents lower than a year earlier, while No. 5 corn averaged $1.04 per bushel, 12 cents lower than a year ago, reflecting the greater discount for high moisture corn this year. While some of this corn is being artificially dried, many farmers in the Corn Belt will continue to find it necessary to feed or sell high moisture corn this spring to avoid spoilage. To the extent this corn is displacing other feeds, it is having a bearish effect on feed prices generally. Sorghum grain prices continue at about the support level, and in mid-March prices received by farmers averaged 13 percent lower than a year earlier, while barley prices were 7 percent lower. Oat prices, on the other hand, continue around 10 to 15 percent over a year earlier, reflecting the short 1959-60 supply.

Prices of most of the high-protein feeds declined from January to early March, then strengthened in the last half of the month. Prices of 44 percent soybean meal at Chicago averaged $59.35 per ton in March, $5.15 lower than in January, and slightly lower than a year earlier. Prices of most of the other high-protein feeds in March were moderately to substantially lower than a year ago. Linseed meal prices were high in relation to soybean meal throughout 1959 and into January 1960, but have declined about $15.00 per ton since early January. In March, linseed meal and cottonseed meal prices were about normal in relation to soybean meal. Prices of tankage and meat meal have declined nearly 25 percent and fish meal 33 percent from the relatively high levels of a year ago. In March, tankage and meat meal were a little lower than average in relation to soybean meal, while fish meal was substantially lower (table 8). The price of distillers' dried grain has advanced 12 percent during the past year and in March was 7 percent above the 1954-58 average. Prices of most of the other high-protein feeds were below this 5-year average.

Table 8 .- Prices of specified feeds per ton, March 1960 with comparisons 1/

Feed	Market	Average of 1954-58 feeding years	March			March 1960 as a percentage of average	Percentage of price of corn	
			1958	1959	1960 2/		Average: 1954-58	1960
		Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Dol. per ton	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Grains and byproduct feeds								
Corn, No. 3 Yellow	Chicago	46.05	41.60	43.10	40.80	89	100	100
Oats, No. 2 White	Minneapolis	42.40	41.20	39.80	43.60	103	92	107
Barley, No. 3	Minneapolis	49.60	49.60	47.60	44.20	89	108	108
Milo, Maize	Kansas City	43.60	40.40	40.00	35.00	90	95	86
Bran, Standard spring	Minneapolis	34.90	37.00	39.90	38.40	110	76	94
Middlings	Minneapolis	36.20	36.50	40.30	38.30	106	79	94
Soybean meal	Chicago	60.25	61.25	60.10	59.35	99	131	145
Gluten feed	Chicago	40.80	40.00	43.20	37.80	93	89	93
Distillers' dried grains	Cincinnati	52.95	50.00	51.00	56.90	107	115	139
Brewers' dried grains	Milwaukee	42.35	38.75	44.70	36.50	86	92	89
							Percentage of price of soybean meal	
Protein Feeds								
Soybean meal	Chicago	60.25	61.25	60.10	59.35	99	100	100
Cottonseed meal	Memphis	55.95	59.60	60.60	56.00	100	93	94
Linseed meal	Minneapolis	56.70	50.90	73.20	55.10	97	94	93
Tankage	Chicago	83.00	103.20	104.00	77.95	94	138	131
Meat meal	Chicago	79.50	97.90	100.50	76.65	96	132	129
Fish meal 3/	Buffalo	136.10	124.75	161.20	108.80	80	226	183
Gluten feed	Chicago	40.80	40.00	43.20	37.80	93	68	64
Distillers' dried grains	Cincinnati	52.95	50.00	51.00	56.90	107	88	96
Brewers' dried grains	Milwaukee	42.35	38.75	44.70	36.50	86	70	61

1/ Grain prices are average of carlot sales; byproduct feeds wholesale, bulk.
2/ Grain prices are the average for 4 weeks ended March 25.
3/ F.o.b. seaboard.

The average price of oats continues high in relation to the price of corn and most other feeds. In March, No. 2 White oats at Minneapolis averaged $2.80 per ton higher than No. 3 Yellow corn at Chicago, whereas during 1954-58 oats averaged nearly $4.00 per ton below corn. On the other hand, milo at Kansas City continues lower than average relative to corn and most other lower protein feeds.

More Corn Placed Under Price Support; Less Oats, Barley and Sorghum Grain

Through February 29, farmers had placed 378 million bushels of 1959 crop corn under price support, 76 million more than through February 1959. During February, producers put 82 million bushels under price support, 11 million more than in the previous February. While the quantity going under price support is higher than in the past 2 years, it is not large considering the size of the 1959 crop. The high moisture content of the 1959 crop has delayed the placing of corn under price support and also may limit the total quantity going under price support during the loan period ending May 31.

The loan period for oats, barley and sorghum grain ended February 1. Substantially smaller quantities of each of these grains was placed under price support from the 1959 crop than from the 1958 crop. The 8.3 million bushels of oats placed under price support is the smallest amount to be put under since 1947. The quantities of barley and sorghum grain put under price support this year are the smallest since 1952 and 1956, respectively.

The quantity of the four feed grains going under price support through February totaled 14.9 million tons, 5.2 million less than in the same period of 1958-59.

CCC Sales of Corn Down in 1959-60; Larger Sales of Other Feed Grains

Both domestic and export sales of corn from CCC stocks were smaller during October-March this year than in the same period of 1958-59. Domestic sales of corn totaled only about 28 million bushels, less than half the 85 million bushels sold in the same period last year, table 10. The 18 million bushels sold for export also was substantially less than the 37 million bushels sold in the first 6 months of 1958-59. A substantial part of the export sales are moved under the payment-in-kind program. Smaller export sales from CCC stocks this year are due largely to the lower payment per bushel by CCC for the corn exported under the payment-in-kind program. This has resulted in less corn coming from CCC stocks even though total exports have been maintained at about last year's level.

Table 9.- Feed grains: Quantities placed under price support, 1958 and 1959 crops

Item	Unit	1958 Loan	1958 Purchase agreement	1958 Total	1959 Loan	1959 Purchase agreement	1959 Total
		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Through February							
Corn 1/	Bu.	293,954	8,027	301,981	372,692	5,623	378,315
Total for season 2/							
Oats	Bu.	69,424	15,174	84,598	7,929	384	8,313
Barley	Bu.	86,918	20,396	107,314	33,894	6,906	40,800
Sorghum grain	Bu.	263,687	12,088	275,775	106,216	8,876	115,092
Total	Ton	18,811	1,295	20,106	14,350	578	14,928
Corn							
Total for season							
At full support rate 3/	Bu.	200,222	28,287	228,509	---	---	---
At lower support for noncompliance corn 4/	Bu.	143,069	9,282	152,351	---	---	---
Total	Bu.	343,291	37,569	380,860	---	---	---
Total for season 5/	Ton	20,192	2,123	22,315	---	---	---

1/ Loans on corn available through May 31 in most areas. 2/ Data for 1959 preliminary. Loans were available on 1958 crops through February 2, 1959 and on 1959 crops through February 1, 1960. 3/ National average support to farmers complying with acreage allotments was $1.36 per bushel. Includes relatively minor quantities placed under price support in the noncommercial area. 4/ National average support to noncompliers in commercial areas was $1.06 per bushel. 5/ Total for season for four feed grains.

Table 10.- Feed grains: Commodity Credit Corporation sales for domestic use and export, by quarters, 1957-59 1/

Year beginning October	October-December Domestic	October-December Export	January-March Domestic	January-March Export	April-June Domestic	April-June Export	July-September Domestic	July-September Export	October-September Domestic	October-September Export
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Corn										
1957	21,166	49,239	15,675	47,911	13,092	36,329	27,251	6,757	77,184	140,236
1958	47,536	13,623	37,828	22,941	59,245	20,719	18,101	6,761	162,710	64,044
1959	22,212	8,346	2/16,000	2/10,000						
Oats										
1957	514	6,045	476	6,951	914	9,496	1,030	4,131	2,934	26,623
1958	493	997	588	2,072	1,078	3,535	16,580	2,644	18,739	9,248
1959	13,222	79	2/5,700	2/1,200						
Barley										
1957	1,142	16,072	678	28,373	1,068	33,592	600	15,287	3,488	93,324
1958	809	1,632	2,042	635	1,268	13,250	14,132	11,331	18,251	26,848
1959	14,358	5,562	2/2,200	2/2,500						
Sorghum grain										
1957	1,035	4,229	472	12,212	3,689	17,467	5,993	11,077	11,189	44,985
1958	2,926	3,991	1,349	10,797	5,339	14,277	8,665	3,751	18,279	32,816
1959	2,090	7,620	2/700	2/2,100						

1/ Domestic sales include fire, theft and spoilage, in addition to domestic sales and donations. Export sales include international barter. P.L. 480 program, donations, ICA transfers, as well as cash sales and sales under the payment-in-kind program.

2/ Preliminary, partly estimated.

Compiled from reports of Fiscal Division, Commodity Stabilization Service.

Total sales of oats and barley have been much larger so far during the 1959-60 marketing year than in 1958-59. CCC sales of oats for domestic use increased sharply in 1959-60 to a total of about 35 million bushels for the period July-March. Heavy domestic sales of oats this year reflect the much smaller production which has resulted in short supplies in some areas and prices climbing well above the 1959 support level. These sales have reduced CCC stocks from about 42 million bushels on July 1, 1959 to the current level of only about 12 million bushels.

Sales of barley for domestic use also have increased sharply in 1959-60, totaling over 30 million bushels for the first 9 months. Export sales totaled nearly 20 million bushels for the 9 months, a little above a year earlier. CCC barley stocks have been reduced nearly 40 million bushels since July 1, 1959. CCC sales of sorghum grain total about 12 million bushels during October-March this year, about a third less than a year earlier. Both domestic and export sales of sorghum grain have fallen below the 1958-59 levels.

About 28.6 Million Crop Acres In Conservation Reserve for 1960 Crop Year

About 6.4 million additional acres of cropland were placed in the Conservation Reserve Program by farmers during the 1960 signup. Combined with the 22.2 million acres remaining under contracts signed during 1956-59, a total of 28.6 million acres will be in the reserve during the 1960 crop year. The same basic rate per acre that prevailed in 1959, $13.50, was also in effect for the 1960 signup. Preliminary estimates of farmers offering their entire eligible crop acres (whole farms) for contract in the 1960 program indicate that the participation is at about the same level as in 1959 when such farms comprised about 83 percent of the acres in the program. No crop production is permitted for harvest on farms for which the entire eligible acres have been placed in the reserve.

While the placing of all the eligible crop acres in the program has been possible since the beginning of the Soil Bank in 1956, this practice did not gain wide acceptance until 1959. The percentage of farms placing all the eligible acres in the program was increased sharply in 1959 when substantially more land was offered by farmers than could be accepted by available funds. A priority system was set up giving those who offered all their eligible cropland some preference on a contract.

In 1959, 10.6 million acres or 83 percent of the total 12.7 million acres put into the Program were on farms placing all eligible acres in the reserve. With participation by farmers offering their entire eligible crop acres in the 1960 program at about the same rate as in 1959, about 20 million acres of the 28.6 million now under contract are on these farms. Based on present indications, farmers in the West North Central region will account for about 37 percent of the total United States acreage placed under this phase of the Program. The East North Central and the West South Central regions account for about 14 and 17 percent, respectively, of the land going into the program from these farms offering their entire eligible crop acres.

Since a large percentage of the total cropland in the country is in feed grains and hay, a significant part of the total acreage placed in the Conservation Reserve Program probably was originally planted to feed crops.

Table 11.--Conservation Reserve Program: Total acreage and acreage on farms where all eligible cropland is contracted, by regions, 1960

Region	1956-59 acreage remaining in program	Additional acres contracted in 1960 1/	Total in 1960 1/ Conservation Reserve	Total in 1960 1/ Acreage on farms contracting all eligible crop land 2/ Total	Total in 1960 1/ Acreage on farms contracting all eligible crop land 2/ Percent of U. S. total
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pct.
North Atlantic	756	377	1,133	930	4.6
East North Central	2,030	896	2,926	2,703	13.5
West North Central	7,678	2,615	10,293	7,351	36.6
South Atlantic	1,797	650	2,447	1,499	7.5
East South Central	1,219	405	1,624	1,197	6.0
West South Central	5,059	891	5,950	3,422	17.0
Mountain	3,042	406	3,448	2,487	12.4
Pacific	619	160	779	489	2.4
United States	22,200	6,400	28,600	20,078	100.0

1/ Preliminary, based on information available in March, 1960.
2/ Acreage on farms in which all eligible crop land is under contract. No crop production is permitted for harvest on these farms.

Soil Bank Division, Commodity Stabilization Service.

LONGER TERM TRENDS IN FEED CONSUMED BY DAIRY COWS

The quantity of grains and other concentrates fed to dairy cows in 1959 totaled 19.8 million tons, about the same as in 1958 and only slightly below the record tonnage fed in 1957. The total tonnage and the quantities of these feeds fed per cow are shown in table 12, for the calendar years 1931 to date. The high level in the total tonnage fed in the last 3 years follows a long-term upward trend in feeding. The total tonnage fed in each of the last 3 years is about 50 percent above the level in the late 1930's.

The increase in the total tonnage fed has come in spite of a 22 percent decline in the number of dairy cows on farms from the war-time peak reached in 1944. During this 15-year period, the quantity fed per cow rose nearly 50 percent to a record high of 2,050 pounds in 1959. It increased 12 percent during the last 3 years, about the same as the increase in the quantity of feed concentrates fed per unit of all grain-consuming livestock.

The higher rate of feeding per cow is due to a number of factors. The most important appears to be increased emphasis on obtaining a high rate of production of milk per cow. Increased output of milk per cow requires heavier feeding of grains and other concentrates relative to the quantities of hay and other forages consumed. Milk production per cow rose steadily from the annual average of only a little over 4,000 pounds in the mid-1930's, reaching 5,000 pounds in 1947, 6,000 pounds in 1956 and a record 6,438 pounds in 1959. The increase in production per cow was accompanied by an increase in the quantity of grain and other feed concentrates fed per 100 pounds of milk produced. The rate of feeding in 1959 rose to a new record high of 31.6 pounds per 100 pounds of milk, though it was only slightly higher than in other recent years.

The relationship between the price of feed and the prices of milk and butterfat also has some bearing on the quantity of feeds fed per cow. The favorable relationship between the price of dairy products and feed in the past 2 years has encouraged dairymen to feed their cows more liberally. In the calendar year 1959, the price of milk per pound was equivalent in value to 1.42 pounds of feed. This was 9 percent above the 1949-58 average and the highest since 1945. The price of butterfat was equivalent in value to 24.7 pounds of feed, 11 percent above average and the highest ratio since 1946.

Pasture conditions also influence, to some extent, the rate of feeding of grains and other concentrates, but their influence appears to be much less important than the other factors discussed above. Even though the condition of dairy pastures in each of the past 3 years averaged above the long-term average, feeding of grains and concentrates continued heavy. Feed furnished by pastures and other forages probably has more effect on grain feeding during certain periods of the year than these annual figures would indicate.

The rate of feeding dairy cows in 1960 is expected to continue the upward trend of recent years. Relatively low feed prices, compared with prices of milk and butterfat, will encourage dairymen to continue to feed above average quantities of grain per head. On February 1, the rate of feeding per head averaged 7.71 pounds or 4 percent higher than February 1, 1959 and nearly one-fifth above the 1949-58 average.

The composition of the total grains and concentrates fed to dairy cows has not changed materially during the past 5 years. During this period , grains have made up about 60 percent of the total, commercially prepared feeds 28-30 percent and byproduct feeds and other feeds around 10-12 percent. Nearly 59 percent of the total quantity fed in 1959 was corn, oats, barley and wheat; 28.5 percent was commercially prepared feeds; about 4 percent was oilseed meal; 2.7 percent wheat millfeeds and 6 percent other feeds.

Table 12.- Grain and other concentrates fed to dairy cows and related factors, 1931 to date 1/

Calendar year	Grain and other concentrates fed to milk cows	Quantity fed per cow	Quantity fed per 100 pounds of milk	Milk-feed price ratio 2/	Butter-fat-feed price ratio 2/	Dairy pasture conditions	Price of dairy ration per 100 pounds 3/	Number of dairy cows January 1: 4/	Milk production per cow
	1,000 tons	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Pct. of normal	Dol.	Mil.	Lbs.
1931	13,650	1,181	26.5	1.34	26.0	70.1	1.15	23.8	4,459
1932	13,500	1,120	26.0	1.31	25.2	71.2	.86	24.9	4,307
1933	13,600	1,085	26.0	1.21	23.3	65.6	.97	25.9	4,180
1934	11,700	929	23.0	1.09	18.7	53.2	1.34	26.9	4,033
1935	11,400	943	22.5	1.13	21.0	79.5	1.48	26.1	4,184
1936	12,800	1,079	25.0	1.24	24.6	58.6	1.47	25.2	4,316
1937	12,200	1,045	24.0	1.12	21.8	75.0	1.74	24.6	4,366
1938	13,500	1,163	25.5	1.32	25.1	82.9	1.22	24.5	4,558
1939	14,600	1,255	27.3	1.29	22.6	71.2	1.22	24.6	4,589
1940	15,100	1,275	27.5	1.29	24.0	77.2	1.34	24.9	4,622
1941	16,200	1,333	28.0	1.39	26.4	76.8	1.48	25.5	4,738
1942	17,300	1,380	29.0	1.39	24.4	87.8	1.85	26.3	4,736
1943	18,000	1,410	30.5	1.35	24.8	81.4	2.28	27.1	4,598
1944	18,172	1,392	30.7	1.38	24.4	78.0	2.61	27.7	4,572
1945	19,225	1,503	31.2	1.42	27.5	87.3	2.57	27.8	4,787
1946	18,234	1,490	30.5	1.38	26.8	81.0	3.06	26.5	4,886
1947	18,106	1,509	30.2	1.18	21.8	82.9	3.63	25.8	5,007
1948	17,482	1,516	30.0	1.26	22.5	79.7	3.84	24.6	5,044
1949	18,593	1,640	31.4	1.28	23.3	80.6	3.02	23.9	5,272
1950	18,516	1,629	30.7	1.24	22.4	82.9	3.08	23.9	5,314
1951	17,418	1,605	29.9	1.29	22.0	85.9	3.52	23.6	5,333
1952	17,527	1,628	30.3	1.28	22.3	79.7	3.75	23.1	5,374
1953	18,519	1,676	30.7	1.25	21.6	75.4	3.43	23.5	5,542
1954	18,721	1,659	30.0	1.19	19.8	75.0	3.30	23.9	5,657
1955	18,664	1,758	30.1	1.28	20.9	76.5	3.10	23.5	5,810
1956	19,098	1,825	30.2	1.36	22.3	75.1	3.00	23.2	6,004
1957	19,946	1,945	31.2	1.39	23.2	83.3	3.00	22.9	6,160
1958	19,809	2,003	31.3	1.41	24.1	85.8	2.89	22.2	6,316
1959	19,803	2,050	31.6	1.42	24.7	80.9	2.89	21.5	6,438

1/ Data compiled from Milk Production Crop Reporting Board, AMS, March 1955-1960 and "Rations Fed to Milk Cows" Reports, January 1945-1954.

2/ Pounds of dairy ration equal in value to one pound of milk or butterfat.

3/ Average value of concentrate ration in milk and cream selling areas.

4/ Cows and heifers 2 years old and over kept for milk. This series was not used in computing milk production per cow nor feed fed per cow.

Table 13.- Individual feeds as percentage of the total concentrate ration fed to milk cows in herds kept by dairy reporters, United States, 1949-59 1/

Year	Corn	Small grains			Oilseeds and oil-seed meals				Other millfeeds		Commercial mixed feed	Miscellaneous	Total
		Oats	Barley	Wheat	Cottonseed meal	Cotton seed	Linseed meal	Soybeans or soybean meal	Gluten feed or meal	Wheat bran, shorts			
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1949	32.4	22.5	3.6	1.2	1.8	.4	1.7	2.1	.6	3.2	25.7	4.8	100.0
1950	32.2	22.5	3.5	1.1	1.5	.2	1.4	2.3	.5	3.4	26.2	5.2	100.0
1951	31.7	23.3	3.5	.9	1.2	.2	1.4	2.2	.5	3.4	26.7	5.0	100.0
1952	32.2	22.0	2.9	1.0	1.3	.3	1.0	1.5	.4	3.0	30.3	4.1	100.0
1953	33.5	21.2	2.7	.8	1.5	.2	1.1	1.8	.5	3.2	28.8	4.7	100.0
1954	31.7	23.1	3.3	.8	1.6	.3	1.0	1.1	.4	2.9	28.7	5.1	100.0
1955	32.0	23.1	3.6	.6	1.3	.2	.9	1.4	.4	2.8	28.3	5.4	100.0
1956	31.2	23.2	3.5	.6	1.4	.2	.9	1.7	.4	2.8	28.3	5.8	100.0
1957	32.0	21.6	3.4	.7	1.2	.2	.8	1.9	.3	3.2	29.2	5.5	100.0
1958	32.1	21.8	3.4	.5	1.1	.1	.9	1.9	.3	3.0	28.8	6.1	100.0
1959	33.7	21.6	3.0	.5	.9	.2	.7	2.0	.2	2.7	28.5	6.0	100.0

1/ Based on reports of rations fed on May 1 and November 1.

Table 14.- Rations fed to milk cows: Individual feeds as percentage of the total, by regions, 1959 1/

Item	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
Grains							
Corn	15.7	48.0	46.9	24.2	34.3	2.8	33.7
Oats	14.9	35.2	29.3	7.7	6.1	7.4	21.6
Barley	1.6	.7	2.7	4.5	2.1	12.3	3.0
Wheat	.7	.2	.1	.7	.6	1.3	.5
Byproduct feeds							
Cottonseed and meal	---	---	.2	2.0	6.2	1.5	1.1
Linseed meal	---	1.8	.4	.2	.1	.6	.7
Soybean meal 2/	1.6	2.6	2.1	1.8	2.4	.6	2.0
Gluten feed or meal	.8	---	---	.2	.2	.1	.2
Wheat bran, shorts	1.6	2.5	2.8	2.2	4.4	3.5	2.7
Commercial mixed feeds	56.8	5.9	11.0	39.3	37.5	61.7	28.5
All other	6.3	3.1	4.5	17.2	6.1	8.2	6.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Based on reports of concentrate ration fed to milk cows in herds kept by dairy reporters on May 1 and November 1.

2/ Includes small quantities of soybeans.

Compiled from Milk Production, Crop Reporting Board, AMS, March 1960.

Commercially mixed feeds have been a comparatively stable percentage of the total quantity of feed grains and other concentrates fed to dairy cows in recent years. The quantity of mixed feed fed increased rather sharply during World War II and has ranged from 25 to 30 percent of the total since 1945. Prior to World War II, less than 20 percent of the feed concentrates fed to dairy cows was commercially mixed.

The proportion of commercially mixed dairy feeds to total concentrates fed varies greatly by regions -- about 62 percent in the Western States, about 57 percent in the North Atlantic region, a little less than 40 percent in the Southern States, 11 percent in the West North Central region and 6 percent in the East North Central region. Farmers in mid-western States depend much more on home grown or locally grown feeds than they do in other areas of the country.

The Feed Situation is published bi-monthly.

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The next issue is scheduled for release
May 24, A. M.

Table 15.- Feed grains and hay: Acreage planted by regions, annual 1953-60 1/

Year	North Atlantic	East North Central	West North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	United States
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
				Corn			
1953	2,394	22,002	35,843	8,765	11,612	958	81,574
1954	2,442	22,557	35,207	8,798	12,018	1,163	82,185
1955	2,442	22,657	34,888	8,397	11,384	1,329	81,097
1956	2,350	21,936	33,702	7,935	11,096	1,200	78,219
1957	2,272	20,796	31,688	7,706	10,135	1,350	73,947
1958	2,256	21,349	32,081	7,621	9,871	1,335	74,513
1959 2/	2,313	24,562	39,107	8,180	10,007	1,361	85,530
1960 3/	2,355	25,098	39,730	7,863	9,411	1,301	85,758
				Oats			
1953	1,701	9,781	22,246	2,739	4,562	2,191	43,220
1954	1,799	10,065	23,447	2,990	6,215	2,382	46,898
1955	1,808	10,095	22,695	3,246	7,437	2,242	47,523
1956	1,617	9,677	21,761	2,965	6,489	2,182	44,691
1957	1,758	8,954	19,738	2,892	6,942	2,293	42,577
1958	1,640	8,673	17,788	2,299	5,824	2,182	38,406
1959 2/	1,638	8,130	16,825	2,317	5,169	2,062	36,141
1960 3/	1,615	7,642	16,468	1,831	4,664	2,053	34,273
				Barley			
1953	243	250	4,291	297	452	4,082	9,615
1954	318	406	6,139	354	911	6,612	14,740
1955	352	555	7,358	373	1,092	6,605	16,335
1956	336	534	6,554	381	969	6,061	14,835
1957	309	548	6,801	404	1,210	7,263	16,535
1958	330	478	6,928	387	1,356	6,830	16,309
1959 2/	272	421	7,452	402	1,404	7,039	16,990
1960 3/	250	334	6,843	388	1,595	6,976	16,386
				Sorghums, all purposes 4/			
1953	---	6	4,618	145	8,295	1,526	14,590
1954	---	12	7,263	182	10,637	2,054	20,148
1955	---	14	8,341	284	12,575	2,765	23,979
1956	---	22	7,470	247	11,486	2,288	21,513
1957	---	71	12,404	251	11,738	2,495	26,959
1958	---	81	8,348	277	10,699	1,642	21,047
1959 2/	---	35	7,726	288	10,321	1,516	19,886
1960 3/	---	36	8,061	284	9,777	1,642	19,800
				Four feed grains			
1953	4,338	32,039	66,998	11,946	24,921	8,757	148,999
1954	4,559	33,040	72,056	12,324	29,781	12,211	163,971
1955	4,602	33,321	73,282	12,300	32,488	12,941	168,934
1956	4,303	32,169	69,487	11,528	30,040	11,731	159,258
1957	4,339	30,369	70,631	11,253	30,025	13,401	160,018
1958	4,226	30,581	65,145	10,584	27,750	11,989	150,275
1959 2/	4,223	33,148	71,110	11,187	26,901	11,978	158,547
1960 3/	4,220	33,110	71,102	10,366	25,447	11,972	156,217
				All hay 1/			
1953	7,782	13,461	27,138	5,425	9,585	11,606	74,997
1954	7,589	13,234	27,508	5,273	9,146	10,971	73,721
1955	7,624	8,781	31,853	5,513	10,257	11,332	75,360
1956	7,654	12,527	27,802	4,883	8,978	11,458	73,302
1957	7,585	12,296	28,082	4,581	9,226	11,661	73,431
1958	7,587	12,066	27,456	4,885	9,651	11,359	73,004
1959 2/	7,492	11,771	25,823	4,407	8,704	11,207	69,404
1960 3/	7,389	11,485	25,570	4,308	8,742	11,594	69,088

1/ Harvested acreage of hay. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Prospective acreage based on March 1 intentions of farmers. 4/ Grain and sweet sorghum for all uses including sirup.

Table 16 .- Corn: Quantity processed and shipments of specified products by the wet-process industry, United States, 1946-59

Calendar year	Wet-process grindings	Shipments of products 1/							
		Corn starch	Corn sugar	Corn sirup, unmixed 2/	Dextrines	Corn oil		Feed	
						Crude	Refined	Gluten feed and meal	Corn oil meal
	1,000 bu.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
1946	120,611	1,282,726	647,902	1,837,280	140,630	30,561	136,778	872	59
1947	139,273	1,509,289	785,293	1,983,006	162,429	40,630	181,226	1,015	63
1948	109,878	1,388,719	711,764	1,333,378	157,598	27,281	151,218	781	59
1949	116,174	1,499,193	737,652	1,418,215	158,591	36,213	172,698	817	51
1950	131,439	1,790,527	828,978	1,532,759	206,821	53,311	181,645	897	54
1951	129,049	1,659,000	767,269	1,549,018	188,463	49,540	171,691	961	54
1952	126,128	1,680,787	748,316	1,497,004	169,367	47,946	167,826	872	58
1953	130,345	1,832,424	783,352	1,544,304	181,753	58,552	183,712	930	49
1954	130,940	1,905,586	745,112	1,559,594	168,958	53,394	176,986	945	46
1955	137,913	2,046,145	732,433	1,620,013	193,120	55,747	188,584	1,017	43
1956	141,373	2,061,157	757,711	1,658,426	187,472	60,063	192,002	1,021	38
1957	139,391	2,043,784	744,844	1,665,286	174,853	60,338	210,365	977	30
1958	143,961	2,063,134	834,428	1,798,795	180,160	48,692	216,983	1,002	29
1959 3/	153,011	2,193,167	867,250	1,900,960	195,198	47,482	235,309	1,045	24

1/ Prior to 1955-- sales of products.

2/ Includes corn sirup, unmixed, sold to mixers outside of the wet-process industry and the quantity used by the wet-process industry in its mixed sirups.

3/ Preliminary.

Compiled from reports of Price Waterhouse and Co. and Dun and Bradstreet, New York.

Table 17.- Production, stocks, and foreign trade in byproduct feeds, foreign trade in feed grains, and corn and barley processing, February and March, 1960 with comparisons 1/

Commodity	Production: 1958-59 season 3/	Production: Feb. 1959	Production: 1959-60 Dec.	Production: 1959-60 Jan.	Production: 1959-60 Feb.	Stocks 2/: Oct. 1, 1958	Stocks 2/: Mar. 1, 1959	Stocks 2/: 1960 Jan. 1	Stocks 2/: 1960 Feb. 1	Stocks 2/: 1960 Mar. 1
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Byproduct feeds										
Soybean cake and meal	9,490.1	800.0	788.4	785.7	708.9	48.1	87.7	66.1	98.6	98.0
Cottonseed cake and meal	2,153.6	201.8	311.9	302.7	283.9	71.2	103.8	110.4	131.6	149.5
Linseed cake and meal	451.5	30.5	32.9	34.6	30.5	26.3	4.3	41.1	45.1	51.4
Peanut cake and meal	75.3	6.3	5.8	4.9	5.0	1.5	2.9	1.6	2.8	3.9
Copra cake and meal	114.6	7.9	9.3	9.0	8.1	.6	4/	4/	4/	4/
Total	12,285.1	1,046.5	1,148.3	1,136.9	1,036.4	147.7	198.7	219.2	278.1	302.8
Corn gluten feed and meal	1,044.2	78.8	100.6	92.3	84.7	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Brewers' dried grains	234.6	14.8	16.2	15.9	15.9	4.9	3.1	7.0	5.6	5.0
Distillers' dried grains	348.4	29.2	28.2	31.3	33.1	2.2	5.2	5.5	6.2	6.1
Wheat millfeeds	4,618.6	351.4	413.2	414.4	361.0	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Rice millfeeds	236.4	17.0	19.4	23.5	24.4	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Alfalfa meal	1,353.6	22.6	25.7	23.0	19.5	451.7	133.1	326.5	252.8	186.3
Fish meal and solubles	354.8	2.8	16.9	3.1	5/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Dry or powdered skim milk	7.7	.4	.5	.5	.6	.5	.3	.3	.3	.4

Commodity	Foreign trade: Imports: 1958-59 season 3/	Imports: Jan. 1959	Imports: 1959-60 Nov.	Imports: 1959-60 Dec.	Imports: 1959-60 Jan.	Exports: 1958-59 season 3/	Exports: Jan. 1959	Exports: 1959-60 Nov.	Exports: 1959-60 Dec.	Exports: 1959-60 Jan.
	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons
Soybean cake and meal	6/	0	0	6/	0	512.2	55.8	76.9	122.0	62.8
Cottonseed cake and meal	127.5	15.9	2.9	4.9	2.7	27.3	.5	18.2	34.1	23.1
Linseed cake and meal	4.0	.7	.4	.4	.4	31.3	3.1	10.3	19.2	5.3
Peanut cake and meal	0	0	0	0	0	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Copra cake and meal	30.6	2.5	.1	.4	.1	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Total	162.1	19.1	3.4	5.7	3.2	570.8	59.4	105.4	175.3	91.2
Wheat millfeeds	82.6	9.0	6.6	5.0	4.6	42.7	2.8	5.0	7.5	6.5
Fish meal and solubles	140.0	18.3	4.4	5.7	7.5	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Tankage	11.0	.4	.6	.4	1.0	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Feed grains										
Corn, including products	1,138	125	125	130	111	229,108	17,496	24,752	27,582	14,315
Oats, including oatmeal	3,460	125	204	202	125	31,892	4,040	5,546	1,241	3,487
Barley, including malt	14,311	584	2,782	2,388	661	116,685	11,053	8,337	7,879	8,325
Sorghum grain	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	99,795	11,576	9,253	11,564	8,870

Commodity	Grain processing or use: 1958-59 season 3/	1958-59: December	1958-59: January	1959-60: October	1959-60: November	1959-60: December	1959-60: January
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Corn							
Wet-processing 7/	151,946	11,422	11,742	14,107	11,901	11,812	12,492
Distilled spirits and alcohol	33,681	3,212	3,100	3,026	2,565	2,580	2,922
Barley							
Malt liquors	76,822	5,793	5,387	6,065	4,990	5,564	5,276
Distilled spirits and alcohol	7,612	714	689	686	637	621	719

1/ Data compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior, and Price Waterhouse and Company and Dun and Bradstreet, New York. 2/ At processors' plants. 3/ October-September year for all items except oats and barley which is July-June. 4/ Not reported. 5/ Not available at the time of the preparation of this report. 6/ Less than 50 tons. 7/ Corn, wet processing, February, 1960, 12,204,609 bushels.

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